



TRAFFIC ALERT

VirginiaDOT.org

RELEASE: IMMEDIATE
CONTACT: Michelle Earl, VDOT Public Affairs
276-669-9901 or 9999(office)
423-335-6693 (cell)
Michelle.Earl@VDOT.virginia.gov

May 14, 2009
BR-0953

VDOT BRISTOL'S WEEKLY TRAFFIC ALERT: May 18 - 24, 2009

BRISTOL, Va. – In an effort to keep motorists informed, the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides weekly information about highway construction and maintenance projects in southwestern Virginia. When traveling through highway work zones, use caution and be alert to changes in traffic patterns and slow-moving or stopped traffic. **Motorists face a maximum fine of \$500 for speeding in highway work zones.** Law enforcement officers monitor highway work zones throughout the region.

INTERSTATE PROJECTS

*****Interstate 81 – bridges repairs in Marion area:** Be alert to north and southbound lane closures in the Marion area due to bridge repairs at the following locations:

- Southbound near Exit 45 over Scratch Gravel Road: 13-foot-width restriction during repairs (Completion: May 22, 2009)
- Southbound at mile marker 43 (Completion: May 2009)
- Northbound at mile marker 43 (Completion: late June 2009)

*****Interstate 81 Safety Improvements – Wythe County:** Work begins this week to lengthen the Interstate 81 Exit 77 northbound deceleration lane and widen the southbound and northbound ramps. Work will also begin to extend the Interstate 81 Exit 80 right turn lanes of the southbound and northbound ramps. Use caution in this area while safety improvements are underway. (Completion: September 1, 2009)

*****Interstate 81 southbound in Smyth County – guardrail:** Be alert to the possibility of lane closures on southbound Interstate 81 near mile marker 48 in Smyth County due to the installation of guardrail and rumble strips. Use caution in this area and anticipate delays. (Completion: May 2009)

*****Interstate 77 maintenance activities:** Be alert to lane closures along the Interstate 77 corridor in Virginia due to pothole patching this week. Also, be alert to bridge deck patching southbound at Exit 32 in Wythe County.

*****Interstate 81 maintenance activities:** Be alert to lane closures due to maintenance work at the following locations of I-81:

- Cleaning of concrete barriers in Wythe County between mile markers 78 and 82.
- Guardrail repairs at various locations in Wythe, Smyth and Washington counties.
- Pothole patching at various locations in Washington, Smyth and Wythe counties.
- Concrete patching southbound near Exit 13 in Abingdon.
- Bridge deck patching near Exit 3 in Bristol and Exit 72 in Wythe County.

Interstate 77 in Carroll County – bridge repairs: Work has begun to rehabilitate the Interstate 77 bridges near mile marker 23 in the Poplar Camp area of Carroll County. Work to pave shoulders may cause nighttime lane closures on northbound or southbound I-77 between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. weekdays. Motorists are advised to be alert to changing traffic patterns on north and southbound I-77. In the months ahead, several traffic pattern changes are expected, especially during nighttime hours.

PRIMARY HIGHWAYS AND HIGH TRAFFIC SECONDARY ROADS:

Buchanan County

Buchanan County- Water Line Installation: Work to install water lines in the following areas of Buchanan County will restrict traffic to one lane during daylight hours:

Route 601 – Convict Hollow (Completion: late Spring, 2009)

Route 655 – Lynn Camp (Completion: September 2009)

Route 460 Grundy – Phases I and II: Be alert to periodic lane closures on Route 460 between Route 615 and the former VDOT Coalfields Expressway office due to the installation of barrier rail that will separate traffic from building demolition work. Be alert to closed sections of sidewalk near the former Advance Auto, Coalfields Expressway and Richardson Apartments due to demolition work.

Motorists should also be alert to the possibility of periodic lane closures and delays on Route 460 in downtown Grundy due to the reconstruction of Route 460 and the U.S. Corp of Engineers flood proofing activities at the Main Street bridge. The Main Street bridge is closed and there are no through traffic restrictions downtown. Motorists will have access from Route 460 to Main Street and from Route 83 to Walnut Street.

Use caution in these areas and be alert to the possibility flaggers directing traffic. The posted speed limit is 25 mph in the work zone. Motorists should use caution and pay close attention to signs directing traffic through the work zone. (Phase I Completion: summer 2009; Phase II Completion: mid-November 2011)

Shuttle Service during Route 460 relocation project in downtown Grundy: A complimentary downtown Grundy shuttle service continues to be offered during the Route 460 relocation project. The service operates from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 7:30 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Fridays.

There are temporary parking lots for the shuttle service at Grundy Church of Christ and the town's redevelopment site. The shuttle will stop at each lot and at the corner of Walnut and Main Streets every 15-20 minutes. Two temporary shelters for shuttle patrons to use during inclement weather are located adjacent to the Grundy Church of Christ and near the redevelopment site.

Intersection of Routes 680 and 638 – bridge repairs: Traffic has been switched to the northbound lanes of the Route 680 bridge in Buchanan County to allow for the replacement of the southbound half of the bridge. Traffic signals are controlling traffic at the intersection of Route 680 – Contrary Road and Route 638 – Dismal Road in the Pilgrim's Knob area of Buchanan County while the bridge project and water line repairs are underway. (Completion: May 1, 2009)

Dickenson County

Route 661 – Dog Branch Road: Be alert to the possibility of delays on Route 661 – Dog Branch Road in Dickenson County due to minor widening work between the intersections of Route 652 – Dyer's Chapel Road and Route 676 – Ramsey Ridge. (Completion: May 2009)

Water line installation – various routes: Beginning in April and extending through summer 2010, be alert to periodic lane closures due to water line installation work on the following routes in Dickenson County:

Route 63 – Big Ridge Road
Route 637 – Rose Ridge and D.C. Caney Ridge Road
Route 638 – Hill Ridge
Route 614 – Flannagan Dam Road
Route 648 – Rachel's Chapel Road
Route 646 – Hamilton Town Road
Route 771 – Copperhead Road
Route 709 – Tan Trough Branch
Route 818 – Patsy Lane
Routes 679 – Nancy Hollow
Route 760.

Route 80 – water line installation: Work to install water lines on Route 80 in Dickenson County is underway. The project is located between the intersection of Route 682 and the Dickenson County line. Use caution in this area. (Completion: late summer 2009)

Grayson County

Route 58 bridge repairs: Due to bridge repairs, traffic is being controlled by signals on the Route 58 bridge over Peach Bottom Creek located just east of Independence in Grayson County. The bridge is restricted to one 14-foot-wide lane during repairs. Use caution in this area. (Completion: May 2010)

Route 842 – Twin Pond Road: Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 842 – Twin Pond Road in the Fries area. (Completion: December 2009)

Route 748 – Laurel Creek Road: Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 748 – Laurel Creek Road in the Rugby area. (Completion: December 2009)

Lee County

Alternate Route 58: Due to a bridge reconstruction project, signals are controlling one 12-foot-wide lane across the Alternate Route 58 bridge over the North Powell River in Pennington Gap. Use caution in this area and pay close attention to signs in the work zone. (Completion: September 1, 2009)

Russell County

*****Route 82 – Cleveland Road:** Be alert to the possibility of delays on Route 82 – Cleveland Road in Russell County due to curve widening work. **(Completion: early July 2009)**

Route 618: A section of Route 618 in the Rabbit Ridge section of Russell County has been closed to allow Paramount Coal Company Virginia LLC to perform surface mine operations in the area. The 0.4-mile section begins about one-mile east of Route 600 and extends eastward. When the mining operations are complete, Paramount Coal Company Virginia LLC will rebuild the closed section of Route 618, eliminating steep grades and sharp curves along the existing section of Route 618. (Completion: spring 2009)

Russell County- Water Line Installation: Work to install water lines is underway on:

- Route 19 between Lebanon and Hansonville in Russell County. Motorists may also experience delays on Routes 657 and 660 due to the project. (Completion: summer 2009)
- Route 657 – Green Valley Road (Completion: November 2009)

Use caution and be alert to traffic restrictions during daylight hours.

Scott County

*****Route 684 - Cowans Creek Road:** The project to reconstruct Route 684 – Cowans Creek Road will resume in the summer months. (Completion: spring 2009)

Smyth County

Route 16 – bridge repairs: Temporary signals are controlling one-lane traffic across the Route 16 bridge in Sugar Grove due to replacement of the bridge deck. Use caution in this area (Completion: June 2009)

Route 622 – Nick’s Creek Road: Due to a project to widen and replace a bridge on Route 622 – Nick’s Creek Road in Smyth County, a section of the route is closed to traffic. Motorists can detour around the project by using Kelly Hill Road, Pierce Road, Big Prater Road and Route 16. Motorists are advised to use caution in this area and pay close attention to detour signs. (Completion: December 1, 2009)

Route 11 at Exit 39: Signals are controlling one lane traffic across the Route 11 bridge at Exit 39 in Smyth County due to a bridge deck replacement. The project will cause periodic, temporary closures along Interstate 81. Use caution in this area. (Completion: October 1, 2009)

Tazewell County

Route 19/460 bridge project: Two-way traffic through the Route 19/460 bridge work zone has been shifted to the southbound lanes. Use caution and slow down through the work zone while motorists become familiar with the new traffic pattern. The Lake Street entrance to Route 19/460 is temporarily detoured onto Post Street due to the construction. Additionally, the entrance to Quarry Road will be temporarily detoured through the Miner's Oil entrance. There will be a 12-foot-width restriction in the work zone. (Completion: October 2009)

Washington County

Route 75 bridge over Spring Creek: Signals are controlling one 11-foot-wide lane of traffic across the Route 75 bridge over Spring Creek in Washington County due to a bridge deck replacement project. The bridge is located about a mile north of Tennessee. Use caution in this area and allow extra travel time. (Completion: June 2009)

Wise County

*****Route 630 – South Mountain Road:** The Route 630 – South Mountain Road bridge crossing Bad Creek will be closed from June 1 – 6 due to bridge repairs and a deck replacement. The bridge is located at the Pound Veterinary Hospital. (Completion: June 5, 2009)

Route 78 bridge: Traffic crossing the Route 78 bridge over Callahan Creek at Appalachia is being controlled by signals. The bridge has been reduced to one 12-foot-lane while the superstructure is being replaced. (Completion: November 2009)

Wythe County

Route 100 bridge and Route 637 – Greenbriar Road: Due to bridge repairs, the Route 100 bridge over Little Reed Island Creek has been restricted to one 12-foot-wide lane and traffic signals will begin controlling traffic on both ends of the bridge beginning December 1. Route 637 – Greenbriar Road in Wythe County has been closed due to the bridge project. Route 100 can be accessed from Route 637 about 1.5-miles south of the bridge project (Completion: May 2010)

Route 680 – bridge repairs: Signals are controlling one-lane traffic across the Route 680 – Black Lick Road Bridge over Stony Creek in Wythe County due to bridge repairs. There is a 10-foot width restriction on the bridge during the repairs. The bridge is located 0.25 miles south of Route 52. (Completion: August 31, 2009)

Route 613 – Locust Hill Road: Be alert to the possibility of lane closures due to improvements along a section of Route 613 – Locust Hill Road in the Max Meadows area. (Completion: December 2009)

Completed

Route 733 – Rush Creek bridge: Replacement of the Route 733 – Rush Creek bridge deck in Washington County has been completed. (END)